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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ROTHFUS).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PROTEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

Washington, DC May 25, 2016.

I hereby appoint the Honorable Keith J. Rothfus to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

Paul D. Ryan, Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2016, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

ASSAULT ON LEGAL IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. GUTIÉRREZ) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTIÉRREZ. Mr. Speaker, as it turns out, deporting 11 million undocumented immigrants and banning Muslims from entering the country might not be the most radical anti-immigration ideas that the Republicans have come up with. There seems to be a sinister, anti-immigration arms race breaking out in the Party of Trump.

Last week, a Federal judge—Judge Andrew Hanen of Texas, pictured here—the same one whose judgment on immigration executive actions is being deliberated by the Supreme Court, ordered the punishment of every single lawyer in the Justice Department in 26 States. His claim is that some DOJ lawyers misrepresented to him whether they were complying with his injunction suspending the immigration executive actions announced by President Obama in November of 2014.

After his injunction, they were only supposed to issue 2-year work permits under the old rules to immigrants who applied for and received, after an extensive criminal background check, the ability to be treated as the lowest priority for deportation. But the remedial ethics classes are for every single Department of Justice lawyer in 26 States.

You say you weren't in any way associated with the case before the judge?

Too bad.

Never practiced law that is remotely related to immigrants or immigration? Sorry, the judge is ordering your punishment.

Never been to the State of Texas in your life?

Tough cookies, the Texas judge knows best, and is ordering you around as if you had argued cases yourself before his court.

Overreach much?

The newspaper La Opinion called Judge Hanen's plan "onerous and absurd." I think that is an understatement

Judge Hanen is also using some good old-fashioned scare tactics to see if he can compete with Sheriff Joe Arpaio and the GOP Presidential nominee for the title of who is so shamelessly antimmigrant. Judge Hanen has called for the Department of Justice to turn over the names of 100,000 people who were possibly granted the 3-year, not the 2-year, work permits.

So if you come forward, pay hundreds of dollars, submit your paperwork and fingerprints, then 2 years later a judge says, Though you have made no mistake and have zero—I want to repeat—zero—responsibility for the controversy, you, the applicant, before the American government, could have your name and address published for every two-bit vigilante and Twitter troll to read.

I thought Republicans were the ones who didn't like activist judges. I thought they wanted as little government as possible and to leave the legislating and, I suppose, the intimidating to the politicians here in Washington, D.C.

So when the Republicans up the ante in one area, they have to up the ante in another. Nowhere is this crass political opportunism more apparent than right here.

This morning we are having a little hearing in the Judiciary Committee aimed at—get this—shutting down legal immigration as much as possible. Your son's fiancee, your mom's doctor, your neighbor's nanny, your grocery store's janitorial crew, if they are coming legally to the United States, Republicans want to stop it, slow it down, and make it cost a lot more.

The party obsessed with illegal immigration now has legal immigration firmly in its sight. And if you are from certain countries or are of a certain religion, you must have a special security review.

I thought the campaign promise to bar Muslims from traveling here to the USA was a campaign promise that would never be realized unless your leader actually won the campaign.

Don't get me wrong. If I thought Republicans were proposing a process to make things more secure and give the U.S. a better immigration system, I would support it. And I think we could pass something that was on a bipartisan basis in Congress today.

But come on, guys. Do you really believe that the House of Representatives is trying to craft a sensible bill related

☐ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., ☐ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

